

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L  
**AGENDA**



Thursday, October 19, 2006

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**Health and Human Services**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**ITEM No 8**

**Subject** Approve execution of a contract with THE SALVATION ARMY, Austin, TX, to provide social services for homeless women and their dependent children in an amount not to exceed \$1,938,469 for the period October 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$1,589,544 for the first extension option, \$1,629,283 for the second extension option, and \$1,670,015 for the third extension option, for a total four year contract amount not to exceed \$6,827,311

**Amount and Source of Funding** Funding in the amount of \$1,550,775 is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Approved Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department Funding for the remaining three months of the contract and renewals is contingent upon available funding in future Operating Budgets

**Fiscal Note** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact A fiscal note is not required

**Additional Backup Material**  
 (click to open)  
 [Salvation Army Contract](#)  
 -- ASWC

**For More Information** Vince Cobalis, Asst Director for Human Services, 972-5011, Susan Gehring, Community-Based Resources Manager, 972-5026, Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023  
**Prior Council Action** Approved 2006-2007 Operating Budget, September 11, 2006

## **SALVATION ARMY CONTRACT**

### **Background**

Since October 8, 2001, the City of Austin has contracted with The Salvation Army for the operation of the Austin Shelter for Women and Children (ASWC), a comprehensive emergency shelter that serves homeless adult women including those with dependent children under the age of 17 years old. The shelter, located at 4523 Tannehill Lane in Austin, is owned by the County and leased at no charge to the City.

The goal of the ASWC is to aid homeless women and their children in transitioning out of homelessness and into self-sufficiency. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and their comprehensive services are provided in a caring, supporting, and encouraging atmosphere. Objectives focus on obtaining safe and stable housing with the income necessary to support personal stability. A high priority is placed on children's services including licensed child care, child/family therapy, after-school tutoring and transportation to local schools.

ASWC's services are designed to effectively transition shelter residents out of homelessness by providing

- a) Emergency shelter (30-90 days)
- b) Case management services
- c) Assistance in accessing mainstream resources
- d) Exit to permanent, transitional or subsidized housing

ASWC offers these major program components

**Emergency Shelter:** The ASWC provides a 60 bed emergency shelter to homeless women and homeless women with children on a first come first served basis. A call back list is maintained 24 hours a day 7 days a week for all persons who seek shelter.

**Basic Needs Service:** The ASWC provides meals, hygiene supplies, clothing, school supplies, and diapers and formula to help clients stabilize their living situation. On-site Licensed Child Care is provided for shelter residents who are working and/or seeking employment. Direct financial assistance is provided to eligible residents in order to remove barriers to housing.

**Case Management:** The ASWC case managers assist each participant in formulating a self-sufficiency plan to end their homelessness. This involves assessing barriers to self-sufficiency, helping clients overcome those barriers, and connecting clients to supportive community services.

**Specialized Counseling Services:** The ASWC licensed social work and mental health counselors assist clients in stabilizing their lives, improving their coping skills, and engaging in longer-term interventions. They help clients address mental health and substance abuse issues while collaborating with Child Protective Services, Austin/Travis County MHMR, and other agencies to find solutions that will enable the client to move into safe and stable housing.

**Education:** The ASWC provides life skills training and encourages adults to work on completing GED or other training programs. The shelter's teacher assists children with homework and computer skills.

Salvation Army's performance under this contract has been satisfactory and, overall, they have met or exceeded performance measure expectations. Accordingly, staff requests Council to authorize execution of a fifteen (15) month contract with three (3) additional 12-month renewal options. The first term of this fiscal year contract will last for fifteen months, transitioning to a calendar year contract on January 1, 2008. The not to exceed dollar amounts for the extension options are based upon an anticipation of increased operational costs of up to 2.5 percent per year.

**Related Goals**

Services provided under this contract support the Health and Human Services Department's goal of promoting and fostering increased self-sufficiency, healthy behaviors, and lifestyles among targeted populations.

<b><u>Outputs</u></b>	<b><u>12-Month Goal</u></b>	<b><u>3-Month Goal</u></b>	<b><u>15-Month Goal</u></b>
Number of client bed-nights of shelter provided to adult and children residents during the contract period	20,805	5,201	26,006
Unduplicated number of adult and children residents provided one (1) or more days of shelter during the contract period	315	79	394
<b><u>Outcomes</u></b>			
The percentage of homeless adults who exit shelter and move into a safe and stable housing	60%	60%	60%
The percentage of homeless adults who complete at least 75% of their case management plan goals	60%	60%	60%